

September 25, 2008

These NDE Bulletins on NSSRS/STARS/NCLB will include information on any or all of these areas and will be used to provide updated information or clarifications. We are sending the NDE Bulletins to as many people as possible to ensure the information gets to the appropriate people. Please share this with the appropriate people or delete if the information does not affect you. All previous NDE Bulletins are now posted on the NDE homepage for easy reference. Thank you.

NCLB

The NCLB Update – October 2008 will be broadcast on NET*SAT Channel 105 (ST CH 04) at 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) on Tuesday, October 7, 2008. The telecast will be no more than one hour. For technical assistance contact the NET Help Desk at 800-698-3426.

The powerpoint presentation used in the telecast will be posted by September 30th on “Federal Programs - NCLB” on the NDE homepage under NCLB Updates at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/federalprograms/nclbupdates/index.htm>. A DVD of the telecast will be sent to all ESUs following the broadcast. A video of the telecast can be downloaded at: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/federalprograms/nclbupdates/video.htm>. The agenda includes information on the NCLB Application for 2008-09, AYP recalculation for 2007-08 and the State of the Schools Report.

NSSRS

Requests to Change Data

Almost 100 districts reviewed the data on the State of the Schools Report and have submitted Requests to Change Data. Your efforts to have accurate and quality data are greatly appreciated. These districts will receive instructions for resubmitting during the November 3 - 12 window.

Upcoming submission deadlines

Staff data were due on September 15th and updates can be submitted until October 31st. Student data, as of the last Friday in September, is due by October 15, 2008 and updates can be submitted until October 31, 2008.

If you have questions or need assistance with NSSRS, the State of the Schools Report, the grants management system, etc., please contact the NDE Help Desk first (888-285-0556 or nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov). We have added some temporary staff to provide additional assistance. Please do not wait until the last minute of the last day to submit.

Staff Reporting

The 2008-2009 Appendix D (Courses and Endorsements, part of the Curriculum Instructions) is available at <http://ess.nde.state.ne.us/DataCenter/DataCollections/Default.htm>, then click on Curriculum Report 2008-2009 Appendix D. NDE is publishing this Appendix D three months early based on feedback from the Data Conference.

PLEASE NOTE: There are numerous updates especially in the Career and Technical Education areas (ex. Business, Family and Consumer Sciences etc.). Please update your tables with these new/updated courses to ensure proper reporting on the curriculum report in February. We hope this early release will provide your district more time for the updates.

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS REPORT

The 2007-08 State of the Schools Report has been closed to preview in order to update data and make changes in some of the displays. We have decided to re-open the Report Card to district review only starting on Monday, September 29, 2008. Note: Only the following changes will have been made to data at that time.

AYP Data/Calculations

Our formula was incorrectly adding a requirement of enrollment at the end of the year to be considered for Full Academic Year (FAY). FAY is a decision entered by the district for each student. The AYP data in the Report Card now matches the AYP Count Verification data available through the NSSRS Validation site. The Validation site, available through the NDE Portal, is designed for districts to audit their data at the individual level as well as print out verification reports.

Small schools and districts (with no groups of at least 30) have always received a rating for State Accountability that was also used for NCLB's AYP decision. This explanation and rating appears at the bottom of the AYP page on the Report Card. This rating will now appear as the Federal Accountability AYP decision. This change is being made because the U. S. Department of Education said it appeared that we were excluding small schools and districts from AYP decisions.

The changes to AYP calculations being required by the US Department of Education will not be displayed until all Requests to Change Data have been submitted. This preview opportunity is still scheduled for November 24, 2008

Other Changes

The NRT data will now include results from grades 6 and 9 where available.

The District Characteristics data is still not being displayed. This is data that may change after the resubmission of data (Nov. 3 – 12).

Programs, such as alternative schools, that do not report student enrollment data will not have Enrollment or Assessment pages showing.